NEWSLETTER OF THE

PIKES PEAK
GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

Community Is The Key Word

JUNE NEWSLETTER

" IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN!"

(THEN KISS THE "FROG WITHIN)

We learn early on that to be out of step with the dictum of our society's norms, rather quickly determines that we are characterized as frogs in a world filled with royal players. And so begins the wait; the longing for the magic kiss of affirmation that will assure our autonomy, and that will issue validation to our self-worth. The feeling state may be likened to a hollow cavity, wherein the spirit of our personhood is suspended in a shroud woven by echoes of how we "ought" and " ought not" to be. It's little wonder that many gay and lesbian people retain the attitude of self oppression and play the bull frog's role of being green!

About 85% of the calls received over the Helpline this past month have been directly relatedto a deep need and desire for inner peace and self acceptance. These questions of coming to balance with God and man and all that lies between, are undoubtedly a statement of the need in our community to both give and to receive support regarding the issue surrounding self-validation and personal autonomy. The elements of that staement are the pain and joy through which we process our birth to Self and thus discover the strength and beauty of our own individual persomage. Perhaps the need felt through the elements of our pain and of our joy could be better understood if we were to realize them as an expression of personal growth, rather than to fear and become distressed by pain or to deny ourselves the joy! Listen to the words of Kahlil Gibran in an excerpt on "Pain" from his book, "The Prophet":

> "Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding. Even as the sun of the fruit must break, that its heart may stand in the sun, so must you know pain.
> And could you keep your heart in wonder at the daily miracles of your life, your pain would not seem less wondrous than your joy;
> And you wpould accept the seasons of your heart, even as you have always accepted the seasons that pass over your fields."

In order to support the process and balance of personal growth through coming in contact with others who are also involved in giving birth to themselves, in meeting a part of the needed expression.

1. Step One: Resuming its regular meetings starting in June. This group will be dealing with gay and lesbian concerns regarding issues centerd around coming into the gay community and the needs suroounding and maintaining personal development for those already into the life style, as well as those exploring the life style. For information contact the Helpline.

2. Lambda House: A residence for men and women with active AIDS, offers the opportunitry to share positive attitudes and a caring, loving concern through volunteer areas, Contact Debbie or the Helpline for information and time of next training meeting.

3. The Helpline: Applications are being taken for people willing to be trained to work the line. Experience is not necessary so long as you are willing to put forth effort to learn and to make a time commitment. Written applications and personal interview required. Contact Laura at the Helpline office. ------- 471-4429 (471- 4 Gay)

These three areas offer the opportunity to support and be supported in the process of giving the gift of life to ourselves. They do not promise to wave a magic wand and instantly heal the broken or painful or lonely wounds. But perhaps through the tools and processes we choose to facilitate our personal search, we will discover the prince or princess waiting to be released within our own person. Perhaps, we will discover that we have had enough personal oppression, our fear and confusion, and kiss the "frog" within that had paralyzed our attitudes and prompted our that we are less than what God or man could accept or love.

If there has to be a magic ending or wand to wave and light to shine, it is simply this; to embrace our troubled insecurity, point it toward positive and productive giving and receiving, put one foot in front of the other and be very careful not tostep on our own self-worth on the way forward!

Gibran says it in a beautiful way as he writes about the infinite depths of our being. "But let there be no scales to weigh your unknown treasure; and seek not the depths of your knowledge with staff and sounding line. For self is a sea boundless and measureless."

Laura Hughes
Helpline Coordinator

P.P.G.C.C. Membership Drive

Gay Pride month is once again upon us and P.P.G.C.C. Membership specials are here too! Once again this year, during June, the Center will run all memberships at half price. That means tht an individual membership is only $6.00; a student is only $2.50; Household is only $10.00; an organization is only $25.00; Sustaining is only $59.00; Business is only $75.00! What a deal! Your membership entitles you to a vote at the yearly meetings, unlimited use of the Lambda Library, discounts at several area businesses and the list goes on! You also support the most valuable part of the Center; the Helpline. Be sure to sign up at the membership booth at the Block Party or send a check to: P.P.G.C.C. P.O.Box 574 CSC 80901.

See Ya at the Block Party,
In Unity and Pride,
Dan!

"WHAT YOU'LL DISCOVER"

As I look out the window at the day's cloudiness and drizzle, I am reminded of a night two years ago of my anticipation for a special TV drama about to begin.

My life was comfortably organized: a good job, a nice home, school, a church positon, and a small group of friends. I relished my Saturday afternoons reading out in the back yard. Sunday dinners over at Aunt Barbara's were equally enjoyable. A devout Christian woman, Aunt Barbara provided enlightening pespectives to our many after-dinner conversations. She shared much wisdom and the values of living close to the church, self-worth, honesty and a constant quest for truth.

And my secret was well-kept. It had been since early childhood.

I tuned the TV to find a young man sitting at a desk writing. His pen was intent and his facial features somewhat perplexed. The camera focuses in on what he is writing and I read what is apparently a closing in a letter to his mother, "...and remember, I am still the same person I was yesterday. Love, Jeff."

As many of you will remember, the drama Consenting Adults held us captive for the two hours that it premiered. . Consenting Adults provided my first real insight about coming out. At the end of the movie, I gave particular attention to the commentator standing in front of an entrance with a sign above the doorway announcing the grand opening of a lounge (Later I was overwhelmed at the number of gay bars in San Antonio).

That night I was incited to begin my own quest for truth. I awoke The following Sunday morning to stare at myself in the mirror, frightened to find tears welling in my eyes. After several tries at tying my tie, I gave up and changed my clothes. I was absent from church and Aunt Barbara called to inquire about my health. "No ma'am, I don't feel well ... No, I don't think you need to come over - please don't worry."

For several weeks, I spent much time in solitude contemplating my new curiosity. Hard-to-answer questions formed in my mind and I became aware of a despairing pain of spirit. My absence more and more Sundays from church became concerning to the bishop and I received a letter to counsel with him.

Shortly before my initial meeting with the bishop, I made the difficult decision to begin coming out and thus chose my mother as the first person. Our relationship had always been a very close one. I dialed long distance and received the ringing tone, "Hello, Mom? ... " I never even had the chance to tell her that I was the same person that day as I was the day before. I started a journey that was to bring me heartache and frustration as well as a horde of new discoveries and adventure. I could write on and on about my experiences in coming out, however, despite my desire to share that journey with you, I would fill page after page. Hence to put a couple of year's account into a couple of pages, the coming out process saw me " crashing" pretty heavily. In one year, I dropped out of school and endured the alienation of family and friends, excommunication from a church, loss of a job, loss of home and eventually, my sense of being diminished. Even a relationship with a long-time female friend - in an attempt to "save" myself - proved tumultous; talking about opening Pandora's box! I never was invited to Aunt Barbara's for Sunday dinner again.

But now, my reminiscing comes to a halt as the clouds outside are breaking. With the sunshine peeking throuh the clouds, I can't help but marvel at the analogy this view provides. The beauty I see outside my window coincides with where I am in my life now; there is much sunshine and warmth. I am very much in love with David, my lover of fourteen months. We have a lovely home together and a cat named Amanda. I am successfully maintaining my job and anticipating school in the fall. I have let God back into my life and He in turn has afforded me a new outlook on my spirituality and a new ministry to pursue. New friends have made special places in my heart and I am rediscovering happiness - happiness in finding out who and what I am - happiness in being gay.

Last summer here in Colorado Springs, the need for a support system for persons coming out became evident to the Pike's Peak Gay Community Center board of directors. A support system that would provide education, discussion and current information on alternatives available within the gay community, After much deliberation and planning, the P.P.G.C.C. formed a committee which constituted a support group called STEP ONE to meet the needs of all women and men coming out in our community.

STEP ONE successfully structured its meetings to provide confidentiality; in turn, allowing its participants to retain their anonymity to whatever degree they chose. Much learning, caring and sharing (and eating!) was done by all involved with the group. Fun was had in making new discoveries.

Today, STEP ONE is alive, well and stronger than ever. The support group's committee has grown and more activities are slated. If you are somewhere in the coming out process, I ask you to read the enclosed flyer and invite you to come to STEP ONE. The next session begins June 23rd.

If you are gay and have not come out; if you are having difficulty even thinking about it, read this article again and know that my heart goes out to you. please consider STEP ONE - I guarantee you will always make new discoveries. You will discover acceptability in being gay; that a suitable life-style can be achieved. You'll discover new kinds of fun and the support of friends. Ultimately, what you'll discover ... will be you - and that's STEP ONE to happiness!

With much hope,
Bucky DeVaney
STEP ONE Committee

5^{00} - *Student/Volunteer*
$12.^{00}$ - *Individual*
20^{00} - *Household*
50^{00} - *Benefactor*

Pikes Peak Gay Community Center
Membership Application

(Please circle appropriate membership)

JUNE HALF-PRICE SPECIAL

50^{00} - *Organization*
100^{00} - *Sustaining*
150^{00} - *Business*
$1,000^{00}$ - *Angel*

I would like to make a one time donation of $ _____

Name _____ *Phone (optional)* _____

Address _____ *City/State/Zip* _____

All membership information is kept strictly confidential.

_____ Yes, I would like to have C[illegible]vered to the address listed above.

Signature _____

CHRIST CHAPEL

WORSHIP
610 E. Willamette
(Counterpoint Bldg.)
Sunday 10:30 AM

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 2481
Colorado Springs,
CO 80901

635-7917
EXT. 720

Pastor: Roger Webb

Staff: Ruby Miller

CHRIST CHAPEL:

Christ Chapel invites you to their 10:30 A.M. service on Sunday, June 21st to hear the special guest speaker, Rev. Joan Wakeford preach on Inner Healing.

June being Gay Pride month, the church is actively participating in the community. Pastor Roger Webb will speak at Step One on Gay History, Tuesday, June 23rd. At the Block Party, Christ Chapel will be giving away a valuable, small gift for those who enjoy growing spiritually. On Sunday, June 28th, for those not able to make the Denver March, join us for a Bar-B-Que at a member's hone. Call us for more details. Have a God Blessed Month!

DIGNITY:

DIGNITY is:
. A seeking of greater self-knowledge and wisdom.
. An affirmation of one's sexual orientation in faith.
. Personal ministry

DIGNITY provides:
. Celebration of the mass as a community.
. Fellowship within our community groups
. Chaplain available for counseling
. Meetings with study of scripture, speakers from other community groups, dialouges and friends gathering

DIGNITY social involvments:
. Supportive of many gay & lesbians groups and events
. Camping, hiking,potlucks and dinners
. Trips to other cities for social events

BARB
593-9606

CHER

dignity
COLORADO SPRINGS
SERVING GAY CATHOLIC & FRIENDS

Meets every Thursday at 7:00 P.M.
Call For Information

Being able to share love with others is GOD'S greatest gift. This gidt begins with having dignity within oneself.

PIKE'S PEAK MCC

GOD LOVES GAYS ALSO!
John 3:16
SERVICES: Sunday 5pm

(303) 634-3771

730 N. TEJON • COLORADO SPRINGS

PIKE'S PEAK MCC

June finds us surging forward inour pastoral search. We wish to extend an invitation for all to join us at 5:00 P.M. Sunday for worship as well as P.G.I.F. on Fridays at 6:00 P.M. and Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M. We are planning a booth at the community Block Party on June 27th and hope to see you there. More information is available by calling the church at 634-3771 and leaving a message.

SISTERS OF SAPPHO:

The Count-Me-In support group has changed its name to" Sisters of Sappho". The group is opento self-identified Lesbians of all ages. We meet at 7:30 P.M. each Thursday night. In addition to the group sessions, Sisters of Sappho also has a monthly brunch and numerous activities. Currently, we are in the process of developing a library for women. We accept donations of books and pass the hat weeklyThe group offers a warm, supportive environment where women can come together to talk, share, and meet others. To find out more about Sisters of Sappho, please contact the Gay Helpline. Unfortunately, the group is unable to provide transportation.

Calendar: June 11th: Compatability in Relationships
18th: Internalized Homophobia
25th: Rune Stones
July 2nd: Indian Lore
9th: Auto Mechanics and Tuning

PLEDGE CARD

Pikes Peak Gay Community Center
Community Is The Key Word

For Membership Info. Call 471-4GAY

Yes, I would like to make a pledge to P.P.G.C.C.
(please check one)

☐ **$60.00 ($5.00 - per month)**
☐ **$120.00 ($10.00 - per month)**
☐ **Other (- per month)**
☐ **$180.00 ($15.00 - per month)**
☐ **$240.00 ($20.00 - per month)**
☐ **1 time donation of**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone ( ) _____ Optional

Gay Center Support Groups
(Call the center for info) 471-4GAY

Sisters of Sappho..Social/discussion
Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians
Speakers Bureau
Step One...Education

Other Important Stuff!
AIDS Helpline..578-9092
GAY Helplinn..471-4GAY
GAY AA.. 471-4GAY

HELLO
If you would like to write an article or place an ad, please call 471-4GAY

MY BLUE HEAVEN :

After having the chance to preview "My Blue Heaven", I can assure you, you won't want to miss this play. Written by Jane Chambers (Playwrite for Last Summer At Blue Fish Cove), this play depicts the lifestyle of a Lesbian couple who has chosen to leave the high pressure, big city life behind. Their new life in the country will hand you a bucket of laughter.

This group of very talented women will be performing "My Blue Heaven" June 12th & 13th at the All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 N.Tejon. Doors will open at 7:30 P.M. with curtain time at 8:00 P.M. There will be drinks and dancing after the production. Tickets will be $5.00 ($4.00 for students & Seniors), and will be available at the door the night of the play. This is another "phases" event.

Conny Seay

PHAZES PRESENTS!

our first **full length** production

yes, folks we're at it again! Another

JANE CHAMBERS PLAY

MY BLUE HEAVEN*

All Souls Unitarian Church
730 North Tejon
Colorado Springs

Curtain Time: June 12 & 13 8:00 p.m.

tickets available at the door.....$5.00
students and seniors.....$4.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
389-0545 or 632-3742

YOU'VE LOVED US BEFORE, DON'T STOP NOW!!!

*Produced by special arrangement with J. H. Press

or Conny Seay 596-3347

MONDAY
2 FOR 1 NIGHT
All Wells & Cans
2 FOR $1.85
9PM — Close

Now On Wednesday!!!
15¢ DRAFT NIGHT
9PM - Midnight

NO COVER

Only At

NUMBERS

2001 East La Salle
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

634-9261

BUS TRIP to
GAY
Pride Parade
in Denver
Sunday -
June 28th
A BUS HOLDING 47 PEOPLE WILL LEAVE THE HIDE AND SEEK COMPLEX AT 10:30 A.M. ON SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1987 FOR THE GAY PRIDE PARADE IN DENVER AND RETURN AT 9 P.M. THERE WILL BE A COCKTAIL PARTY BEFORE DEPARTURE AND A BEER BUST UPON RETURN.
COST OF BUS TICKETS WILL BE $9.00 WITH HIDE AND SEEK CARD AND $7.50 WITHOUT. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT HIDE AND SEEK AND ARE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.
THE HIDE & SEEK COMPLEX 634-9303
512 W. Colorado Ave. • Colorado Springs